

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A magnetic reproducing head having a magnetic gap at a medium-facing surface, comprising
a pair of magnetic yokes of ferromagnetic material, one of the pair of magnetic yokes having a magnetic tip at the medium-facing surface and a rear portion recessed from the medium-facing surface and magnetically coupled to the magnetic tip, the magnetic tip having a first width in a track width direction at the medium-facing surface, the rear portion having a second width in the track width direction, and the second width being wider than the first width,
a magnetoresistance effect film recessed from the medium-facing surface, disposed between the pair of magnetic yokes through an insulation layer, and magnetically coupled to the pair of magnetic yokes of ferromagnetic material, and
a pair of biasing films recessed from the medium-facing surface, one of the pair of biasing films comprising a hard magnetic material layer disposed adjacent to the rear portion or an antiferromagnetic material layer disposed in contact with the rear portion.

Claim 2 (Original): The magnetic reproducing head of claim 1, wherein each of the pair of magnetic yokes of ferromagnetic material comprises a front surface parallel to the medium-facing surface and a rear surface parallel to the medium-facing and front surfaces, and wherein the magnetoresistance effect film has a film surface parallel to the rear surfaces.

Claim 3 (Original): The magnetic reproducing head of claim 2, wherein the magnetoresistance effect film is disposed between the pair of magnetic yokes of ferromagnetic material and recessed from the medium-facing surface.

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Claim 4 (Original): The magnetic reproducing head of claim 1, wherein the magnetic tip and rear portion comprise a continuously formed ferromagnetic material body.

Alt Comp.

Claim 5 (Original): The magnetic reproducing head of claim 1, wherein the magnetic tip is discrete from the rear portion.

Claim 6 (Original): The magnetic reproducing head of claim 1, further comprising a pair of electrodes, one of the pair of electrodes being coupled to a lower film surface of the magnetoresistance effect element and another one of the pair of electrodes being coupled to an upper film surface of the magnetoresistance effect element.

Claim 7 (Original): The magnetic reproducing head of claim 1, wherein the one of the pair of magnetic biasing films comprises the hard magnetic material layer and the hard magnetic material layer is disposed in contact with a side surface of the rear portion of the magnetic yoke.

Claim 8 (Original): The magnetic reproducing head of claim 7, wherein the side surface of the rear portion is tapered.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The magnetic reproducing head of claim 1, wherein each of the pair of magnetic biasing films comprises the antiferromagnetic material layer and the antiferromagnetic material layer is disposed in contact with a lower or an upper surface of the rear portion, the lower surface being a side of the medium-facing surface and the upper surface being remote from the medium-facing surface.

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Alt Cont

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A magnetic reproducing apparatus for reproducing magnetic information recorded on a magnetic medium, comprising

a magnetic reproducing head having a magnetic gap at a medium-facing surface, comprising

a pair of magnetic yokes of ferromagnetic material, one of the pair of magnetic yokes having a magnetic tip at the medium-facing surface and a rear portion recessed from the medium-facing surface and magnetically coupled to the magnetic tip, the magnetic tip having a first width in a track width direction at the medium-facing surface, the rear portion having a second width in the track width direction, and the second width being wider than the first width,

a magnetoresistance effect film recessed from the medium-facing surface, disposed between the pair of magnetic yokes through an insulation layer, and magnetically coupled to the pair of magnetic yokes of ferromagnetic material, and

a pair of biasing films recessed from the medium-facing surface, one of the pair of biasing films comprising a hard magnetic material layer disposed adjacent to the rear portion or an antiferromagnetic material layer disposed in contact with the rear portion.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A magnetic recording head having a magnetic gap at a medium-facing surface, comprising

~~a pair of magnetic cores of ferromagnetic material, one of the pair of magnetic cores having a magnetic tip at the medium-facing surface and a rear portion recessed from the medium-facing surface and magnetically coupled to the magnetic tip, the magnetic tip having a first width in a track width direction at the medium-facing surface, the rear portion having a~~

second width in the track width direction, and the second width being wider than the first width,

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a recording coil providing a magnetic recording field due to current flow in the recording coil and recessed from the medium-facing surface, and

a pair of biasing films recessed from the medium-facing surface, one of the pair of biasing films comprising a hard magnetic material layer adjacent to the rear portion or an antiferromagnetic material layer in contact with the rear portion.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The magnetic recording head of claim 11, further comprising an auxiliary magnetic core, the auxiliary magnetic core being on a rear surface of the rear portion, the rear surface being opposite to a front surface of medium-facing surface side.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The magnetic recording head of claim 12, wherein the magnetic recording coil is formed on a surface parallel to the rear surface.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The magnetic recording head of claim 11, wherein the magnetic tip and the rear portion comprise a continuously formed ferromagnetic material body.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The magnetic recording head of claim 11, wherein the magnetic tip is discrete body from the rear portion, and the magnetic tip is magnetically coupled to the rear portion.

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Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The magnetic recording head of claim 11, wherein the one of the pair of magnetic biasing films comprises the hard magnetic material layer and the hard magnetic material layer is disposed in contact with side surface of the rear portion.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The magnetic recording head of claim 15, wherein the side surface of the rear portion is tapered.

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Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The magnetic recording head of claim 11, wherein the one of the pair of magnetic biasing films comprises the antiferromagnetic material layer, the antiferromagnetic material layer is disposed in contact with a lower or upper surface of the rear portion, the lower surface is a side of the medium-facing surface, and the upper surface is remote from the medium-facing surface.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A magnetic recording apparatus for recording magnetic information on a magnetic medium, comprising,

a magnetic recording head having a magnetic gap at a medium-facing surface, comprising

a pair of magnetic cores of ferromagnetic material, one of the pair of magnetic cores having a magnetic tip at the medium-facing surface and a rear portion recessed from the medium-facing surface and magnetically coupled to the magnetic tip, the magnetic tip having a first width in a track width direction at the medium-facing surface, the rear portion having a second width in the track width direction, and the second width being wider than the first width,

a recording coil providing a magnetic recording field due to current flow in the recording coil and recessed from the medium-facing surface, and

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a pair of biasing films recessed from the medium-facing surface, one of the pair of biasing films comprising a hard magnetic material layer adjacent to the rear portion or an antiferromagnetic material layer in contact with the rear portion.
